

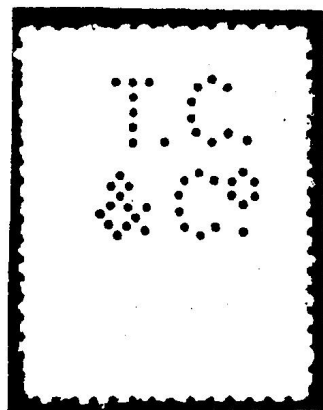
TEA CLEARING HOUSE STAMPS

By John Nelson



I don't think these perfins, which seem to be of a similar nature to those of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange and Corn Trade Association, have ever been mentioned in the Bulletin. I have two examples, the one illustrated and a 1s2d value in Venetian red.

The outer ring of the oval rubber stamp reads TEA CLEARING HOUSE - 15 PHILPOT LANE, E.C.3. In the centre is the word CANCELLED and the date. The die on both stamps is T.C./&Co. (T0860.01) which probably belongs to a firm of tea dealers but I do not have an identity. *[In Tomkins it is given as Thomas Collier & Co, Manchester]*



In Great Britain Revenues by Barefoot, it states, *"The Tea Clearing House in London regulated contracts and insurance for tea shipments. The purpose of the geometric overprints [1924 issues] is at present uncertain - all the stamps recorded so far were used about the same period [1923-24] and were cancelled by the same office."*